

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical communication probe enables a diagnostic tool to optically communicate with an external device, such as an appliance, through a low intensity indicator light of the external device. The communication probe includes an optical transmitter and an optical receiver mounted within a housing. The optical transmitter is a high intensity light emitting diode (LED) and the optical receiver is a sensitive phototransistor. The high intensity LED helps compensate for the relatively high optical threshold of a standard photodetector or LED used as an optical receiver at the appliance and the sensitive phototransistor helps compensate for the relatively low intensity light generated by the indicator light of an appliance.